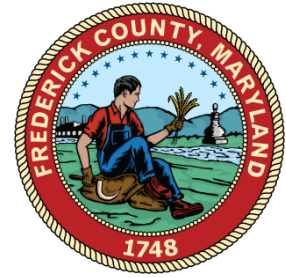




February 19, 2020

Meeting Minutes



Present: John Ferri, Chair; Jennifer Bird, Secretary; Jim Reed, Kevin Sellner, Bill Steigelman, Ron Kaltenbaugh, David Lake, Faith Klareich, Mark Sankey

Kai Hagen, County Council Liaison

OSER staff: Shannon Moore, Dawn Ashbacher, Tyrah Cobb-Davis

Guests/Public: Drew Budelis, Robert Brenneman

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by John Ferri and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

John Ferri asked for any discussion on January's meeting minutes. John requested revisions on page 2, bullet 3. Kevin motioned for the January meeting minutes to be approved, Ron seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation: Monocacy River Water Quality Assessment – Kevin Sellner

- The study focused on nitrogen and phosphorus, as well as sediment and other materials.
- The previously proposed Monocacy River plan had noted that pollution was entering the Monocacy from PA to the north, and that since water quality had improved in the Bay, it must have improved in the Monocacy.
- There are four monitoring stations along the length of the river.
- Monitoring over 30 years shows variability in phosphorus from year to year.
- High frequency variability is affected by high and low flows in both nitrogen and phosphorus.
- A drop in phosphorus occurred downstream of the City after upgrades were made to the City's wastewater treatment plant.
- Big Pipe Creek is the primary source of nitrogen to the Monocacy, not flows from PA.
- Data shows high nitrogen influence from Frederick City to the Monocacy.
- Both total suspended solids (TSS) and chlorophyll are noted to be low.
 - Although TSS does not appear to have been tested post storm events.
- Other contaminants in the river include herbicides and pesticides, halogenated compounds from drinking water facilities, compounds from Ft. Detricks, and cyanobacteria toxins.
- Macroinvertebrates that tolerate poor water quality are found in the river.

- Two areas for future assessment are Little Pipe Creek and tributaries within Frederick City.
- The Commission discussed the potential member categories for the Sustainable Monocacy Commission and the potential for a FCSC liaison.

Forest Ordinance Update

- The County Executive has proposed an update to the Forest Resource Ordinance (FRO), requiring a minimum of 1:1 replacement for forest removed.
- She has asked for comments from FCSC.
- Each Commissioner will send comments to Jim Reed to compile into a document to submit to the County Executive.
- Ron made a motion that FCSC will notify the County Executive that we support the changes to the FRO and the zoning ordinance and will provide more detailed comments after the March 18th FCSC meeting. Jim seconded the motion, and the motion passed with one abstention.

Commission 2020 Work Plan

- John Ferri made a motion that David be the FCSC representative on the Sugarloaf Advisory Board. Mark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- John Ferry made a motion that Faith be the FCSC representative on the 355 corridor advisory committee. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- John noted that the county council had a climate emergency resolution workshop last week. They are looking to develop an ad hoc committee. Councilmember Hagan provided additional information, noting that additional workshops will be held in the future.

OSER Updates – Shannon Moore

- OSER has applied for new grants for Creek Releaf tree plantings and pond retrofits.
- Funding for Power Saver Retrofits will be about \$100,000 to \$150,000.
- Shannon will meet with Utility and Solid Waste regarding nutrient trading.
- Dawn is a member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Sustainable Communities Advisory Committee.
- and has proposed that they include climate change as one of their topics of concern.
 - The committee decided to work on writing a climate action plan and to create a focus for energy efficiency.
- OSER spring events require volunteers.

Letter of Interest

- Dr. Robert Brenneman has submitted a Letter of Interest to become a member of the FCSC.
 - Dr. Brenneman introduced himself to the Commission and provided some information about himself.

The Commission entered Closed Session at 4:35 pm for 40 minutes.

John motioned to enter closed session pursuant to: Maryland Annotated Code General Provisions Article 3305(b) (1) To discuss: (i) The appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or official over whom it has jurisdiction; or (ii) Any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and (10) To discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans.

- To evaluate and possibly interview an applicant that the Sustainability Commission may consider recommending for appointment to the Commission.
- To discuss situations that may arise during a Sustainability Commission meeting that involve potential risk to Commission members and the public.

The motion was seconded by Kevin Sellner. The vote carried unanimously.
The Commission returned to open session at 5:13 pm

Open Session

Dr. Brenneman was nominated for the open position unanimously. His name will be put forth to the County Executive.

Sustainability Awards

- The Commission reviewed and voted on sustainability awards. The following awardees were chosen:
 - Individual
 - Joyce Tuten
 - Non Profit
 - Habitat for Humanity Restore
 - Student/Student Groups
 - Amber Carrera
 - The other nominees will receive a recognition for the good work they do.
 - Commercial
 - Key City Compost
 - Common Market will receive a recognition for the good work they do.
- The Commission suggested adding a question about impact to the nomination form for next year.
- Other nominees will receive a thank you note.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm